

PLATTSBURGH AIR FORCE BASE,
CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5032)
Idaho Avenue North
Plattsburgh
Clinton County
New York

HAER No. NY-326-DD

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HAER No. NY-326-DD

Location: Idaho Avenue North, Plattsburgh, Clinton County, New York.

UTM: 18.622060,4948500
Quad: Plattsburgh, NY-VT, 1:24,000 (1966)

Date of Construction: 1959

Architect: Unknown

Present Owner: United States Air Force

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: Building No. 5032 is ideufical to Building Nos. 5211 and 6106. Each of these fourplex buildings provided 4,496-square-feet for Lower Grade and Upper Grade Non-Commissioned Officer and Company Grade Officer housing.

Project Information: Building No. 5032 at Plattsburgh Air Force Base (AFB) is being documented in accordance with HAER standards to mitigate for the potential adverse effects of transferring deed of title to the property from federal ownership. The property transfer is a result of the disposal and reuse of Plattsburgh AFB, pursuant to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1993. The mitigation is a stipulation of a Programmatic Agreement (PA) among the U.S. Air Force, the New York State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (October 2000).

Michael Pumphrey
Deborah Dobson-Brown
Earth Tech, Inc.
1461 East Cooley Drive
Colton, CA 92324

Summary Description of Capehart Four-Family Home (Building No. 5032)

Layout

Building No. 5032 is a 4,496 square-foot, two-story, wood-frame, four-plex building with a low-pitched gable roof. It is rectangular in plan, with the ground floor level clad in brick veneer while the upper story is clad in vinyl siding-over wood composition. On the rear ground level, the brick façade is interrupted with a strong entrance/fenestration sequence: set within a painted wood panel inset is an entry door, next to which occurs a Chicago-style window unit (double hung windows flanking a central fixed light picture window). Above this, at the second floor level, the windows reverse the Chicago theme, with narrow fixed glass panels flanking a central double hung window. At the front of the building, roughly two-thirds of the ground level brick façade is again interrupted, this time by 1'-0" x 0'-3" indentation. The recessed area is clad in scored, vertical wood siding, with the front entrance door and a double-hung kitchen window being located in the recession. At the upper level, however, the vinyl-clad façade continues interrupted, creating a shallow overhang. A single horizontal sliding bathroom window and one of the "reverse" Chicago windows occur at this level. At each gabled-end, the façade is punctured by a single, narrow, double hung window centered on the second floor level.

Within the overall structure, four identical apartments are lined up. An entrance hall leads from the front door directly into a living/dining area, oriented toward the rear of the unit. Opening off the entrance hall is a kitchen, a utility room, and a staircase leading to the second level, where the bedrooms are located.

Each individual unit in the fourplex is essentially a mirror image of the unit(s) flanking it, and the entire structure is built atop a concrete block, chain-wall foundation. At the front of the fourplex, occur two fully detached garages, equally spaced along the façade. Each garage has two stalls and contains 515 square feet of space. These garages are one-story, wood frame construction, clad in board and batten siding. Each has a low-pitched, gable roof.

Alterations/Additions

The second story of Building No. 5032 was clad in vinyl siding circa 1985.

Function

Building No. 5032 provided housing facilities for Lower and Upper Grade Non-Commissioned Officers, and Company Grade officers and their families.

Significance

The newly established Air Force (established in 1947) embarked upon an expansive Cold War building program to make the Strategic Air Command (SAC) operable. Air Force bases designated specifically for SAC were identified (or newly constructed) and became the critical instrument in SAC's mission of posing a significant deterrent to enemy aggression. Specially designed facilities were constructed at each of these installations, among the more identifiable of which would be the Capehart Four-Family Home.

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Building No. 5032 provided comfortable housing for a specific segment of the military population and their families, all within close proximity to the base operational areas, where that population could go into action at a moment's notice. Toward that end, Building No. 5032 played an important part in the Plattsburgh AFB Cold-War mission.

Drawings

As-built drawings for Capehart Four-Family Home, Building No. 5032, are archived at:

Air Force Historical Research Agency/ISA
600 Chennault Circle
Maxwell Air Force Base, AL 36112-6424

Sources

Tetra Tech, Inc.,
1995 *Survey of Cold War-Era Buildings and Structures at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Clinton County, New York.* Prepared for the U.S. Department of the Air Force, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas.

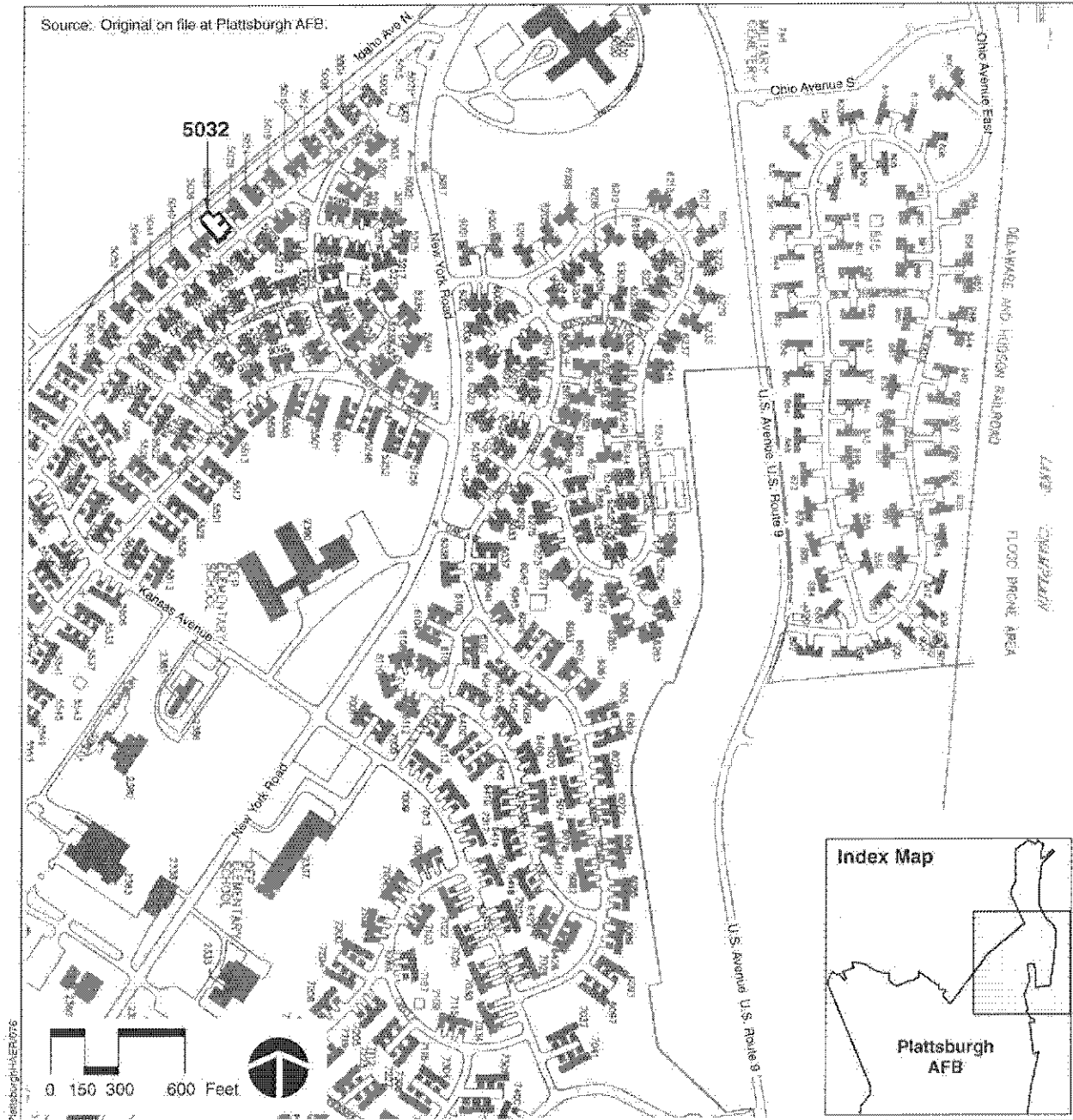
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1991 *Peace...is our Profession: Alert Operations and the Strategic Air Command, 1957-1991.* Office of the Historian, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

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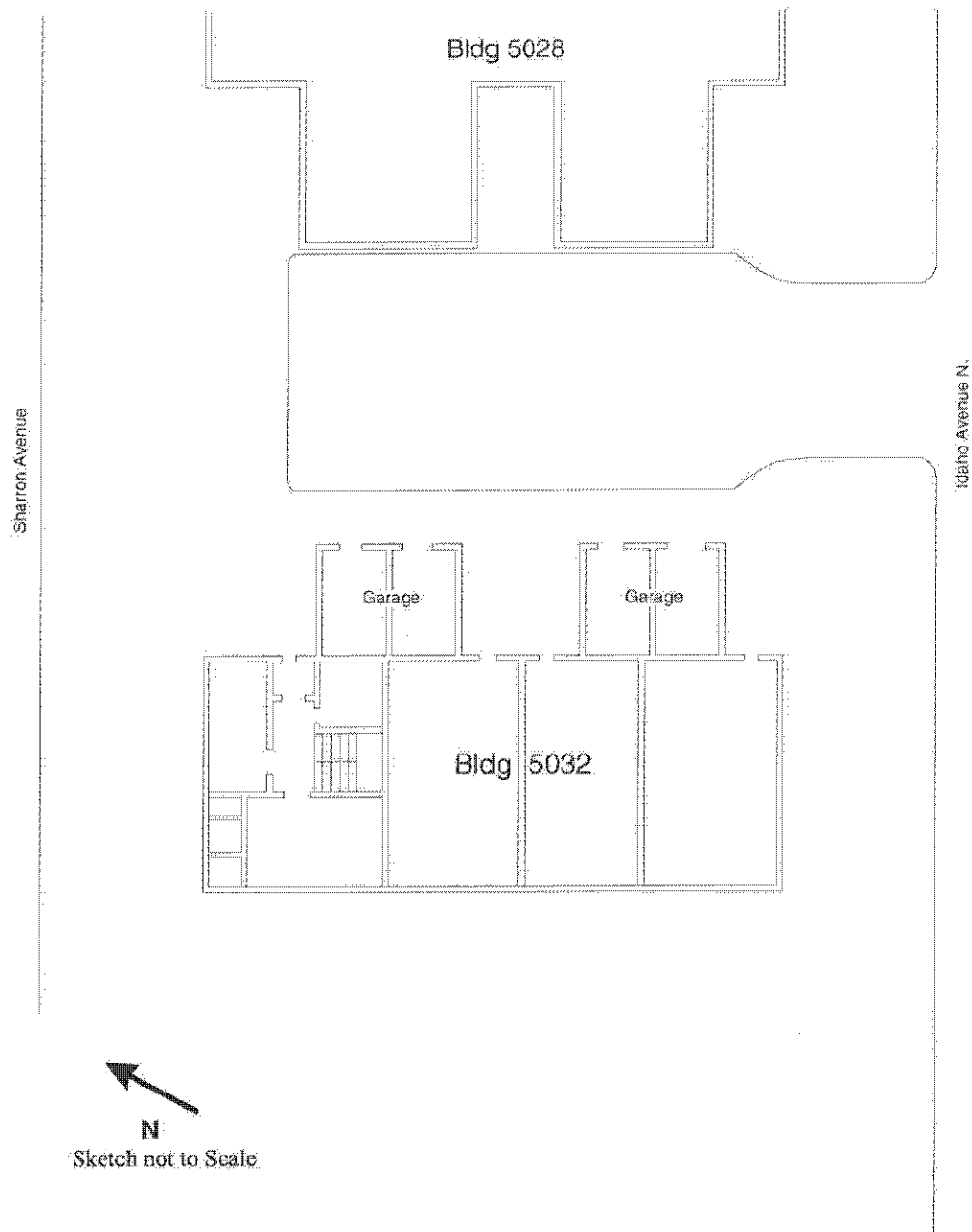
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Location Map for Capehart Four-Family Home, Building No. 5032
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SKETCH PLAN – CAPEHART FOUR-FAMILY HOME
(Plattsburgh Air Force Base, Building No. 5032)
(Source: Plattsburgh AFB CAD File, Prepared by the United States Air Force, ca 2000)
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